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Ray Rossomando
Connecticut Education Association

Before the
Labor and Public Employees Committee

**Re: HB5238 AAC MUNICIPAL ARBITRATIONS AND A MUNICIPALITY'S
RESERVE FUND BALANCE**

March 1, 2012

Good afternoon Senator Prague, Representative Zalaski, and members of the Labor Committee. My name is Ray Rossomando, Legislative Coordinator for the Connecticut Education Association representing 43,000 members who are active and retired teachers across the state.

I am here today to speak against on portions of HB5238 regarding a threshold for budget reserve funds to be a factor in arbitrations. CEA opposes HB5238, which seeks to require arbitrators to exclude budget surpluses of less than 10% in their considerations of arbitration awards. The current factors that are available for consideration by arbitrators have ensured that arbitration decisions represent the true economic conditions of respective communities. Requiring an arbitrator to ignore significant portions of a municipality's fiscal resources unjustly tips the scales on a system that has, on balance, operated fairly.

We urge members of the committee to reject this proposal.